



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Highly Migratory Species Vessel Logbooks and Cost-Earnings Data Reports.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0371.

Form Number(s): NOAA 88-191.

Type of Request: Regular (extension of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 10,216.

Average Hours Per Response: Cost/earnings summaries attached to logbook reports, 10 minutes; annual expenditure forms, 30 minutes; logbook catch reports, 12 minutes; negative logbook catch reports, 2 minutes.

Burden Hours: 36,189.

Needs and Uses: This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

Under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for management of the nation's marine

fisheries. In addition, NMFS must comply with the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971 et seq.), which implements the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations.

NMFS collects information via vessel logbooks to monitor the U.S. catch of Atlantic swordfish, sharks, billfish, and tunas in relation to the quotas, thereby ensuring that the United States complies with its domestic and international obligations. HMS logbooks are verified using observer data that is collected under OMB Control No. 0648-0593 (Observer Programs' Information That Can Be Gathered Only Through Questions). In addition to HMS fisheries, the HMS logbook is also used to report catches of dolphin and wahoo by commercial and charter/headboat fisheries. The HMS logbooks collect data on incidentally-caught species, including sea turtles, which is necessary to evaluate the fisheries in terms of bycatch and encounters with protected species. For both directed and incidentally caught species, the information supplied through vessel logbooks also provides the catch and effort data on a per-set or per-trip level of resolution.

These data are necessary to assess the status of highly migratory species, dolphin, and wahoo in each fishery. International stock assessments for tunas, swordfish, billfish, and some species of sharks are conducted and presented to the ICCAT periodically and provide, in part, the basis for ICCAT management recommendations which are binding on member nations. Domestic stock assessments for most species of sharks and for dolphin and wahoo are often used as the basis of managing these species.

Supplementary information on fishing costs and earnings has been collected via this vessel logbook program. This economic information enables NMFS to assess the economic impacts of regulatory programs on small businesses and fishing communities, consistent with the

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Order 12866, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and other domestic laws.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Frequency: Annually and per trip.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: January 13, 2015.

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BILLING CODE: 3510-22-S.

[FR Doc. 2015-00606 Filed 01/15/2015 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 01/16/2015]